

Remarks/Argument

This Preliminary Amendment is hereby submitted to accompany and amend the Application for Patent of International Application No. PCT/EP 2004/003004, entering the U.S. National Stage under 35 U.S.C. § 371. Amendments submitted herein are to the English translation of the International Application as filed. Claims 1-10 and 12-25 are pending in the application following entry of this Preliminary Amendment.

The following Amendments are submitted herein:

In the specification:

Applicant makes several "form and format" amendments to the specification to conform with U.S. practice, regulation, and statute. The customary heading Background of the Invention, and the sub-headings Field of the Invention and Description of the Related Art have been added. The Summary of the Invention heading has been added, and minor grammatical and phrasing amendments have been submitted to the first paragraph of the Summary, paragraph [0007]. The second paragraph of the Summary, paragraph [0008], has been amended, and an additional two short paragraphs, [0008.1] and [0008.2], are herein added to describe the independent claims submitted for examination. The headings Brief Description of the Drawings, and Detailed Description of Exemplary Embodiments have been added. The amended specification is essentially the same in content as the originally filed international application, with form and format changes in accordance with U.S. practice, and therefore no new matter is introduced.

The claims are herein amended to conform to U.S. practice and preference. Some formerly multiple dependent claims have been rewritten as separate dependent claims, minor phrasing and grammar changes have been adopted, and new claims are submitted for examination.

Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been introduced, and respectfully requests examination of claims 1-10 and 12-25 of the present application as amended by this Preliminary Amendment. If Examiner has any questions concerning the present Preliminary Amendment, or the application, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 749-6902. If any additional fees are due in connection with filing this amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. WACHP008).

Respectfully submitted,
MARTINE PENILLA & GENCARELLA, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. B. Martine', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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